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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE distinguished success of Mr. R. P. Paranjpye in the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge not only does conspicuous credit to himself and to the Fergusson College, Poona, but reflects honour upon the country of his birth. India can now boast a Senior Wrangler. Those who are ready to sneer at the Indian capacity for intelligent "cram" have now an opportunity of explaining how far such capacity helps a man in the Mathematical Tripos. It will be a simpler matter however to ignore Mr. Paranjpye's achievement, just as it is convenient to ignore the scientific performance of Mr. Bose or of Professor Naegamwala, or scores of other Indian men of science. Mr. Paranjpye, we understand, will not attempt to enter the Civil Service or the Educational Service, in either of which an Indian's progress is barred at a certain point, be his qualifications what they may. Like Professor Gokhale he will probably, under a self-denying ordinance, return to the Fergusson College, and forward the education of his countrymen in academic obscurity on a pittance of a few rupees per annum. Yes, there are some who discern a certain nobility of mind in a self-consecration like this, and therewith the promise of a rich harvest of patriotism in the future. It is remarkable that the evening papers of one and the same day announced in one line of their posters the academic distinction of Mr. Paranjpye and in another the score of 178 which Prince Ranjitsinhji had compiled for Sussex against Notts. These things have their effects.

The home journals have been setting forth an elaborate list of sound reasons why President Kruger should offer a satisfactory franchise to a number of aliens engaged temporarily in business within the jurisdiction of the South African Republic. There is not a single one of these reasons that does not apply with still greater force to the natives of India under British rule. Nor do we doubt for a moment that if the case of the Indians were taken up by the Indian Secretary with the alacrity and eagerness with which Mr. Chamberlain has busied himself in favour of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal, the same journals would soon discover those still more forcible reasons that might be urged in favour of the Native Uitlanders of India. But it is more easy to follow an official lead than to vindicate a principle on the merits. Why, some of them are so ardent in support of the claims of the Transvaal Uitlanders that they would not hesitate to enforce them at the expense of a war that would require 50,000 British troops for an indefinite period and embroil the whole of South Africa for a generation to come. It may seem strange that some of this ardour should not be available for reforms that would help forward the professed policy of the British Government to render the Indians more efficient instruments in the government of their own country—a policy that would go far to mitigate the worst alarms that haunt our officers in those parts, sleeping and waking, and to redeem the solemn promises of sovereign and statesman alike. Is the difference a mere matter of colour?

In spite of the unanimity of Indian public opinion, in spite of the protests of the *Times of India*, its most faithful friend, the Bombay Government not only refuses to release the Natus, but does its best to show that the restrictions they now suffer from are no mere formality, but a serious punishment. The daughter of one of the ill-fated Natus is about to be married. He and his brother begged to be allowed to go for two days to Poona, where the rite was to be celebrated, promising to return to Belgaum as soon as the ceremony was over. But it was evidently thought that in the dangerous condition of Poona, as the *Mahratta* put it, "the safety of the Indian empire would be greatly imperilled from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas" if one of the Natus were allowed to visit the town in order to give his daughter away. But the Natus have a way of putting the Government palpably in the wrong. The bride's father then proposed that the marriage should take place in some quiet district like Kolaba; but his request was refused as firmly as before. Neither to escape the plague nor to attend his daughter's marriage must a Natu leave Belgaum.

Mr. Morison, whose book is reviewed in another column, joins in the universal cry that life in modern India is "oppressively dull and uneventful." For instance there is nothing left for country gentlemen to do save to look after their estates, but the occupation of a land agent is not particularly exhilarating. The young squire can no longer go to the capital of the province to ruffle it with his equals, as can still be done by the Moslem nobles of the Deccan at the court of the Nizam. He finds himself in his village with no society outside his own household and none but peasants for miles round. If he tries to break away from this narrow life and visit the headquarters of the district he finds the English Collector—"the greatest earthly potentate of whom he has any certain knowledge"; "a busy man in riding-breeches, going about unattended, on a useful but certainly not showy pony. The Englishman speaks civilly to him in imperfect Hindustani; asks him how the crops are doing his way; then, after enquiring whether he wants anything in particular, informs him that he is very busy, and so dismisses him." The Indian deputy-Collector treats him with more deference, but he too has no time to spare. "The young squire turns away and recognises that among these busy men there is no place for him." As to public festivities, Englishmen who take their relaxation at tennis or whist among themselves and "generally make use of public holidays for shooting excursions" are ill-fitted to organise them, even if the despatch of business left them the time.

The *Pioneer* may be said to "damn with faint praise" the article in the *Quarterly* on "India Under Lord Elgin." Here is an example:—

> As an *apologia* it may be said to serve its purpose when so many critics have gone to the other extreme and pronounced Lord Elgin's rule an unqualified failure. The reviewer makes too much of these extremist criticisms, and by a familiar device he quotes the most exaggerated and silly of them in order to discredit even the legitimate and reasonable comments on many acts of the late *régime* which emanated from quite other sources than those indicated.

On the question of frontier policy however our contemporary becomes frankly hostile and accuses the reviewer of being "curiously uncertain" and in one case "inaccurate." This is in his statement that the outbreak of the Afridis preceded that on the new route to Chitral. The *Pioneer*, grounding itself on the "Papers Relating to the Military Operations on the North-West Frontier of India," points out that the attack on Malakand was notified in the Viceroy's telegram of July 27 and that on Ali Musjid not till August 23, so that the "contagion" spread not from the Khyber to Swat, but from Swat to the Khyber. As our contemporary points out there was thus plenty of time to throw troops into the Khyber forts and "avert one of the most humiliating and inexcusable episodes in British Indian annals. The *Quarterly* reviewer does not mention the affair at all, but the emergency supplied just one of those crucial tests by which rulers may be classed in an empire like India."

We hope it is not true that Lord Kitchener is going to be appointed to "a high post under the Government of India." Lord Curzon, it is said, is eager to get him out because his "great experience and success in organising extensive operations on an economical scale will enable the Indian Government to keep a better check on the outlay for frontier defences and expeditions." We do not believe in the argument from economy. The simple plan of securing economy is to maintain a policy of peace, and for such a plan Lord Kitchener is obviously not needed; in fact his presence in India could hardly be interpreted otherwise than as a harbinger of war. Apart from that surely there could be no more maladroit step taken than to send into a community of Hindus and Mahometans a man who stands responsible for an outrage peculiarly offensive to both races. The abominable desecration of the Mahdi's tomb has rendered Lord Kitchener impossible in India. At the same time the Government is not squeamish about flouting Native feeling when it has an end of its own to serve, especially in military matters; and undoubtedly a warrior who could put it in the way of marauding beyond the frontier "on the cheap" would be an acquisition at Simla. There is really no use in speculating about such a subject on the mere merits of the case.

Sir Richard Temple, in his recent lecture at the Royal United Service Institution, held that Northern Persia was already practically under Russian influence and that England ought therefore to secure Southern Persia and the mastery of the Persian Gulf. Sir Lepel Griffin, on the contrary, insisted that our Minister at Teheran had still great influence, that it was better to treat Persia as a civilised power the maintenance of whose integrity was a matter of consequence to other powers, and that though the Tsar could order an invasion he is not likely to undertake so costly an adventure. The *Pioneer* prefers Sir Lepel Griffin as an authority, and says:—

> What is needed perhaps as much as anything is a careful avoidance of anything that might provide Russia with an excuse for crossing her present frontier.

This will not please the fire-eaters. It is to be hoped that if any part of Persia is to be seized it will not be at the expense of the taxpayers of India.

India is new to strikes, and it is therefore not surprising that the Anglo-Indian Press should smell sedition in the strike of the signalmen and others on the G.I.P. Railway. The *Mahratta* and many other Indian papers take another view, and the long hours—fourteen per day in some cases—with other grievances, seem to them to justify the strike. Even the *Times of India* regrets that the repeated memorials of the signallers did not receive sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Company before the strike. But the most curious thing is that the *Pioneer* sees the wicked Brahmins at the bottom of the whole affair. It says:—

> Probably 97 per cent. of the signallers now on strike on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are Mahratta Brahmins or other Mahratta castes, the Brahmin predominating. Comment is unnecessary.

But it goes on to suggest the enrolling of Anglo-Indian lads with a judicious mixture of "Tamulians, Bengalees, Parsees, and Mahometans." The *Times of India* goes still further and suggests as the real reason of the strike a claim to keep out non-Brahmins. As a matter of fact many Mahometans and some Christians are among the strikers. Moreover, this same railway, unlike others in India, has already been the scene of a strike of European guards. Was that, too, a Brahmin conspiracy?

While the *Times of India* continues to insist that the signallers' strike on the G.I.P. Railway is the work of wicked Brahmins who wish to keep all who are not Brahmins out of the Company's service, the *Mahratta* points out that no fewer than two hundred of the strikers are Mahometans and Christians, and that these have remained just as loyal to their comrades and as vigorous against surrender as any of their fellow-workers. But why, in view of long hours and reductions of pay, should so fanciful a reason for the strike be sought as caste prejudice? Meantime a meeting has been held in Bombay at Mr. Mehta's, at which many leading Indian merchants were present to consider the strike, and a fund to aid the strikers has been opened. One curious point was noticed. Not only does the public suffer great inconvenience owing to the difficulty in working the line, but the taxpayers of India may ultimately have to bear the loss which the Company is suffering. The railway is a guaranteed one and the Company who have entered into the fight with a light heart and after refusing all concessions are fighting at the expense of India. If, as is probable, the losses due to the strike are so great that the interest on capital cannot be paid, India will have to make up the deficiency.

Lord Curzon's "first reform" is a sensible act, which has justly gained him golden opinions. The new rules for the regulation of mining and prospecting substitute businesslike arrangements in place of the unreasonable, obstructive, and self-stultifying prescriptions that have strangely been permitted to dominate enterprise so long. They place the Government in the right relation to business men engaged in mining operations by assigning the Government a certain share in the net profits of each year, and reasonable royalties on the proceeds of exploration. They remove grievances that have been the cause of bitter complaints; and they give courage to those who hope for a real official sympathy with commercial and industrial development of the resources of India. The advantages derivable from the new rules will still depend to a very considerable extent upon the attitude taken up by subordinate officials, too many of whom in the past have wearied the patience and disgusted the judgment of men of business by their foolish obstructions and delays. If the new rules, therefore, are to operate to good purpose it will be necessary for Lord Curzon to pass the word emphatically in favour of an altered official bearing: the implication of Viceregal intention is not enough for many of the viceregal minions. "The most grave and well-founded accusation yet levelled against the Government of India," says the *Times of India*, "is that, whatever laurels it may have won in the domain of administration, its servants have too often shown an utter lack of sympathy with commercial enterprise, sometimes wilfully, but more frequently from sheer indifference." Such a reproach cannot be too soon or too sufficiently cleared away.

The American capture of the contract for the Gokteik bridge is commented upon by the *Times of India* as well as by the *Pioneer*. Our contemporary of Bombay very naturally regards it as somewhat surprising that steps have not been taken long ago to establish works in India capable of supplying the vast quantity of bridge-work required in India. It proceeds:

> With the controlling power Government has, efficient and economical standard designs might have been established, and special labour-saving and efficient plant set up here to carry them out. All that would be required would be the raw material from England or America. It is probable that, if such a course as this were followed, two-thirds of the time taken to get girders from England would be saved, whilst in prime cost a saving of probably 15 to 20 per cent. would be effected; and last, but by no means least, a new industry would have been found for the Native of this country, and one which in every way he is well qualified to undertake.

The contention is sound. But we should be inclined to go a step further and lament the lack of Government encouragement to Natives to supply Government needs in India. Will even the *Times of India* pursuade Government that the Native is "well qualified" for anything higher than a hewer of wood and a drawer of water?

Three years ago provision was made in the Provincial Budget of Bengal for an increase of the pay of the ministerial servants of Government, but the Government of India refused to agree and the item was struck out. A commission had already found that the cost of living to the Indian had risen from 13 to 16 per cent., and therefore the proposed increase of salaries by 12½ per cent., or two annas in the rupee, seemed only reasonable. The *Pioneer* considers that the recent debate in the Bengal Council shows that such an increase of salary is required; for if not there will either be an inferior class of clerks or the clerks will be driven to supplement their salaries by dishonest means. India having been provided with the most expensive Government in the civilised world finds herself in danger of losing the efficiency which she has been promised in return by reason of the starvation of the inferior branches of the public service.

Mr. C. W. MacRury, F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H. (Camb.), late Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay, has an admirable article in the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*

for April, on "The Necessity for Sanitary and Administrative Reform in India." "The people," he says most truly, and from ample experience, "have been intensely irritated by the measures adopted to suppress the plague, which have caused great discontent and several serious disturbances with their lamentable results." On the proper methods of procedure he says :—

> The plague-stricken should be encouraged and recommended when possible to vacate houses or rooms in which the disease appears, and to apply for medical aid, provided for them, on the very first signs of illness. But they should not be annoyed and worried by interfering with the privacy of their homes in searching for cases and removing them *nolens volens* to isolation hospitals. Those having proper and suitable accommodation should be treated in their own houses.

As to the actual procedure, he remarks :—

> It is questionable whether anything but mischief has resulted from the philanthropic but ill-advised and mistaken steps taken to coerce and drive the people instead of leading them in a kind and sympathetic manner in their dire distress and suffering. The attempts to mitigate the pestilence were no doubt well meant, but they were aggravated by the terror of the police, and rendered Government and their officials odious to all classes of Natives.

"No people in the world," says Mr. MacRury, "would have stood so well such an interference with their social life." And, most strangely, the "objectionable and impracticable measure" of land quarantine actually adopted "has been for many years persistently denounced as an absurdity by the Home and Indian Governments through their chosen delegates at European sanitary conferences." "Such a retrograde step in sanitary administration," says Mr. MacRury, "has never before been made, and the mischief in many ways it has caused is incalculable.'

Mr. MacRury argues that "the official machinery for the protection of the public health in India is defective," and points out evils and grievances demanding immediate remedy. Thus :—

> In fighting the battles of disease, it may with reason be asked, Why should the medical profession not be trusted to do its own work without being hampered by civilians or superseded by military men in times of epidemics in India, especially under conditions of panic? This clearly shows that there is a want of confidence in medical and sanitary science. For instance, a Bombay civilian, without any apparent qualification as a sanitarian, was appointed to superintend plague operations, with a salary and allowances, according to grade and service, equal to the pay of from eight to thirteen medical officers. It may be permitted to doubt if the services of a single civilian, however eminent, are worth more than a dozen medical men.

Truly, yes. And "what can be the scientific importance of the reports of Bombay Commissioners or of Assitant-Collectors?" "We doctors," says "one of the ablest, most earnest and energetic officers in her Majesty's Indian Medical Service," in a letter to Mr. MacRury, "do all the slave-work, and the Assistant-Collector, be he ever so junior, gets all the credit, though all he may do is to sit in his office and sign papers." But, bad as this personal situation is, the public position is worse. The pay of the Bombay civilian instanced, whose reports are worth just the value of the waste paper they furnish, "would command the services of two or more of the most celebrated sanitarians in Europe, whose observations and reports would be inestimable to the public and posterity." Will the home public believe that annual reports by Mr. MacRury and by his distinguished predecessors were actually "criticised and reviewed by a young layman who happens to be an Under-Secretary of Government," and expunged here and there to suit the official notions of what ought to be reserved from public knowledge?

The *Tribune* continues its noble work of assuaging the evil spirit of religious animosity. In its account of the celebration of the assassination of Hassan and Hussain it says :—

> The Mohurrum consecrates the noblest trait in human character, that of sanctifying suffering. . . . . So we cannot imagine that there can be any non-Moslem so narrow-minded as not to join with the faithful, at any rate to be moved by sympathy towards them, in their observance of the Mohurrum.

The *Tribune* notices that the same cordiality marked the attitude of the Hindus to the Moslems during the celebration this year as last. At several places along the route of the procession *sabils* were erected by Hindus where sherbet was offered to the tired followers of the Prophet. When every tale of religious riot is so greedily devoured by those who have no wish for the unity of Indians it is pleasant to hear of cases in which goodwill and mutual respect prevail.

Lord George Hamilton has been engaged, harmlessly for once, in unveiling a memorial to forty-one Protestant martyrs who suffered at Canterbury in the time of Queen Mary. In the course of his speech he said :—

> These martyrs were sacrificed in accordance with the spirit of bigotry and intolerance which then prevailed. Persecution was then, I am afraid, almost universal. We live in happier times, but there is a spirit of bigotry often present even among us.

Was Lord George thinking, when he made the last remark, of those English missionaries in India who think they serve the cause of Christianity by flouting and jeering at the old religions of the people, and who repay the hospitality of the country and the license which has been granted them by prosecuting those who adopt the same method of criticising the Christian faith? The Christians are not yet able to burn Hindus; they have to be satisfied with a sentence of eight months' imprisonment, and so far we live in happier times than those of the Canterbury martyrs. But Lord George Hamilton is quite right—a spirit of bigotry is often present even among us, especially if we be missionaries in India.

When a Judge of the High Court describes the proceedings in a lower court as scandalous it can hardly be doubted that a grave injustice has been done. A certain European woman, in what is known as the Balfour case, brought charges against several respectable Indians. The magistrate issued warrants. Some days afterwards the woman said she had been mistaken as to one of the names, and substituted that of a well-known pleader and honorary magistrate belonging to one of the first families of Bengal. It is hardly credible that the case, after this curious beginning, was allowed to drag on for *seven months* in spite of the protests of the counsel for the defence, and that during all that time the charge was left hanging over the accused. When at last, at the end of the seven months, they were committed to the Court of Sessions and the case came on for trial the judge expressed his surprise that it had come before him at all, and the jury, composed mainly of Europeans, gave a unanimous verdict of acquittal. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, from which we take the above account, pertinently asks :—

> If this can happen in the City of Palaces under the very nose of Government, what might not take place in the far Mofussil?

The Allahabad correspondent of the *Times* states (June 9) that "Lord Curzon, who has been inspecting the methods of the secretariats, is understood to have already determined on measures for reducing superfluous clerical work." Very likely. The whole service has been first hampered and then overlaid or overwhelmed with reams of useless paper, continuously since the Mutiny. Before that deplorable episode, the officials had time to get about freely among the people. Since then they have been gradually chained to their desks, and have thus lost touch with the people—a result that may carry with it more dreadful calamity than even the Mutiny. We hope that Lord Curzon has seriously taken in hand this fundamental and urgent reform. It is a small thing, comparatively, that it "promises to have an excellent effect in facilitating public business." Such a reform goes to the very basis of the peaceful and useful continuance of British rule in India.

A sporting correspondent writes: Prince Ranjitsinhji has delighted all Englishmen recently by the way in which he has been scoring. He did not get his eye in until the first Test match at Nottingham. There he took the position in which we like to see him—that of premier batsman. Since that match no bowling has come amiss to him, and he has met such varieties as the lightning deliveries of Bradley of Kent, the "classic" efforts of Hearne, the tempting teasers of Trott, and the length balls of Attewell. Not all these fine trundlers have disconcerted him in the least. When playing against Kent he scored 43 and 46—two delightful displays, the latter of which was the better, and both of which were scored when his side was in a perilous position. Against Middlesex at Lords he rose for the first time during the season to the "century" mark and compiled one of the finest innings of his life. It aggregated 120. His biggest effort of the year, however, was at Brighton, where against Notts he scored 178 in superb style. It was an innings without blemish—there was no faulty stroke, and he was batting nearly four hours. The Prince has lately developed into a bowler. He took five Notts wickets at a trifling cost; but Englanders like "Ranji" best as a run-getter, and judging by the form he has shown recently they will have ample opportunity of seeing him this season in that capacity.

"IMPERIAL RULE IN INDIA."[1]

POLITICAL philosophy has undergone great changes since the last century. It is no longer a question of seeking the most perfect form of government, nor is it assumed that democracy is of universal application. It is recognised that the conditions of the country must be taken into consideration; that there is a natural evolution in human society, and that different forms of government are suited to different stages in a nation's progress. To the old-fashioned democrat all this is rank heresy, a special pleading designed to defend ancient abuses and unreasonable tyrannies. But all truth is capable of such perversions, and it is to be feared that Mr. Morison's book, whatever may have been the intentions of the author, will not escape this fate. He disclaims any design of furnishing "reactionaries with another argument against free institutions;" he is all for a more enlightened rule that shall lead to a self-governing India; but the parts of his book which will perhaps be the most used are those in which he fulminates against the Congress and its leaders, and he will find that he has unwittingly furnished arguments to the supporters of that privilege of race which he without hesitation condemns.

That "it is our duty so to govern India that she may one day be able to govern herself" is, according to Mr. Morison, the conviction to be found in every Englishman's mind; and as a guide to the principles on which the government should be carried out he says: "The test of a truly liberal policy should be that it tends eventually, and in the long run, to put the people of India in a position to manage their own affairs." But in his opinion the present system is very far from doing this. Racial and religious animosities are increasing, while on the contrary the formation of a nation is a necessary preliminary to true self-government. Mr. Morison continues:—

> Similarity of historical antecedents does not of itself bind peoples together; their association in the past must have been of a nature to unite them for common action and to move them to common enthusiasm. The passive subjects of a common conqueror have similar historical associations, but the recollections of servitude suggest no inspiring memories. There are possibly two cases in which foreign conquest may promote the growth of national feeling; the first is when the subject peoples unite to throw off the stranger's yoke, in which case they found a nationality on the ruins of empire; the bond that knits them together is the association in a glorious struggle. The second case is when the conqueror so identifies himself with the people he has subjected that they take his glories as their own.

Such was the policy of Akbar, and such Mr. Morison would wish the policy of England to be. Now in Europe this work has always been done by monarchies, and to monarchy, therefore, he looks to do the same work in India—a form of government, too, more racy of the soil than any of the late importations of European democracy. He adverts to the love and gratitude which the Native Princes of India evoke from their subjects. He glories in the universal affection of Indians for the person of their Empress. And he asks whether the true solution of Indian difficulties is not to be found in making the power of the monarch a reality, in order that the Empress who stands far above all her subjects may deal equitably with all, and may be repaid by the enthusiastic loyalty which Indians are ever ready to offer to their sovereign.

But whatever might be the advantages of a real revival in India of the personal power of the Crown, a sham revival could have none of the effects Mr. Morison desires. He admits that the Empress cannot be expected to take up her residence at Delhi or Agra. In reality the venerable Queen who has passed her life in bowing to her people's wishes could as little take up the position of governing India by her own will. The analogy of the Native Princes is false. Whatever differences there may be between them and their subjects in race, in language and in religion, they are as nothing to those which divide the Oriental from the European. To pretend that the government of India was carried on by the initiative of the Empress when in reality the European officials were still all-powerful would only embolden weak men to shirk responsibility. Mr. Morison says:—

> As for encouraging loyalty to our gracious selves, the English race, I cannot pretend to feel the smallest enthusiasm for such an object; I do not believe that it would be feasible or that Englishmen could play the farce out.

[1] "Imperial Rule in India; being an Examination of the Principles proper to the Government of Dependencies." By Theodore Morison. Westminster: Archibald Constable and Co. 1899.

But in that other farce which he suggests should be played, might not loyalty to the Empress be used as a means of fastening still more firmly on the neck of the Indian people the domination of the English race, and of putting still further in the background all idea that India should ever be able to govern herself?

There is another objection to his plan which Mr. Morison feels much more strongly—the poltical sentiments prevailing in England. He is very ready to recognise that despotism in India is a danger to liberty at home, a danger which the English are ready to ignore but are not prepared honestly to face. And he, therefore, putting his great plan aside, proposes some palliatives for the growing unpopularity of English rule. Admitting that this is in part due to the loss of the personal influence of the Collectors, now to so great an extent birds of passage, holding aloof from the Indians, and occupied with secretarial work, he yet thinks the liberty of the Press and its freedom to criticise, while the servants of the Government are kept muzzled, is a still more powerful cause of discontent. He complains that the Government is being continually attacked, and never defended. But this seems very much exaggerated. As he himself says, there is nothing in the antecedents of India to predispose her to intemperate criticism of her rulers. He has always found Indian students open to reason. And it is very far from being the truth that Indian newspapers are always against the Government. The majority of them have supported the present sugar legislation. It is true they attacked the measures of plague prevention; and the Government has come round to their view. Nor are they uniformly biassed against official persons, as witness the praises lavished on Sir Antony MacDonnell. However, Mr. Morison does not propose to put an end to the liberty of the Press. He only suggests the founding of a Government organ, and the subsidising of newspapers which support the views of the authorities. Further, he would have all public posts given to those who support the Government policy.

But there is another and a much more powerful way by which he proposes to reconcile the people to English rule—the appointment of Natives of India to positions of great dignity. "The political effect of appointing a native of India to one very exalted post is vastly greater than that of putting hundreds of them in subordiate positions." But he recognises that his own countrymen in India would be the great hindrance in the way of this enlightened policy, whether their opposition sprung from official routine or prejudice of race. Here at least he will find himself at one with the Congress and its leaders.

And yet the Congress and its leaders are condemned by Mr. Morison in no measured terms. The officials in India who have pandered to democracy, the public men at home who have urged the Indians on are dismissed with slight blame; while the Congress for accepting the principle of election is branded as disloyal. Nevertheless it is evident that in accepting this principle, which has come from the West, the Congress was not the victim of any democratic theories, but was only striving to gain some share in the government of the country. It is for those who object to election to find some other way which shall at once give the Indians a place in the public life of their own country, and yet not run counter to the political prejudices of the English. But why are the Indians who support the Congress to be branded as disloyal? Mr. Morison affirms the righteousness of their claim that the highest posts should be open to them. He looks with shame and sorrow on the outrages to which Indians are exposed at the hands of Europeans. He defends the educated Indians from the charges made against them. Why then are the Indians to be accused of disloyalty because they draw attention to these matters? He admits that from the views as to sedition long in vogue both among rulers and ruled, he does "not believe that an impartial jury of natives of India would have convicted Mr. Tilak," though he does not himself find fault with the verdict. He admits that the Indians believe in good faith that their country is growing poorer under English rule, though he himself believes that in spite of a constant excess of exports over imports, amounting for the last year to more than Rx. 33,000,000, a very small part of which is interest on the capital of useful works, in spite of that India is growing richer. Why, then, if these views are held in good faith is it disloyal in Indians to complain of the punishment awarded to Mr. Tilak, or to protest against

the system of government which involves the payment of so great a tribute? Why, when English, Anglo-Indians, and Indians are alike involved in error, and have alike failed, according to Mr. Morison, to find the true way of political salvation, does he visit his wrath so much more forcibly on the weak and the conquered, than on the victorious who are of his own kin? On the opening of the great positions to the Indians he is at one with the Congress. And on almost all other great questions, save that of the tribute, he is on their side. Yet because they claim what he thinks should be granted to them, because they protest against wars beyond the frontier and racial distinctions at home, because they complain of the expense of their government, because they point out errors, which, as in the case of plague prevention, have been afterwards acknowledged, because above all they have used the language of democracy which they have learnt from their conquerors, he thinks it would be proper for the Empress, after enumerating the blessings she had conferred on India, to speak thus:—

> You have repaid me with grumbling and discontent. You have reviled my ministers and slandered my Government. I am displeased with this ungrateful fault-finding. I desire that it should henceforth cease, and I have directed my servants to honour and promote those only among you who are heartily loyal to me and my administration.

But if this is what she should say to her Indian subjects, what words would be strong enough to those of her own country who in their ignorance or their pride of race had given cause for fault-finding, or turned the worst slanders into truth? Mr. Morison is an Englishman. Why has he not told us what the Queen should say to these? Why does he strive to pull out the mote that is in the Indian eye, and yet not cast out the beam in the English eye? If reproof be needed, it should fall first on those of his own household.

THE ABSENCE OF THE JUDICIAL ELEMENT IN THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

By the Hon. C. H. Setalvad, B.A., LL.B.,
(*Late Member of the Bombay Legislative Council, Syndic in Law and Fellow of Bombay University, Advocate of the Bombay High Court, etc.*)

In discussing the question of the refusal of the Bombay Government to authorise the new Bombay College of Law, I referred incidentally to the present composition of the Government of Bombay as bearing on the educational policy of that Government. The entire absence of the judicial element in the present composition of the Bombay Government has, however, other far-reaching effects, and touches such vital public interests that public attention in England should be pointedly drawn to it.

It is not generally known, at least in England, that the Governor of Bombay in Council exercises important judicial functions. Under certain enactments he is constituted the Appellate Court in certain civil suits, *e.g.*, those heard by the District Judge of Poona as Agent for the Deccan Sardars. But besides these there are large and important tracts under the political control of the Bombay Government, for which the Governor of Bombay is practically the final court of appeal in civil as well as criminal matters. This jurisdiction is exercised not by virtue of any legislative enactment, but by virtue of what is termed the executive authority of the paramount power or by political usage or delegation. These tracts comprise the territories administered by the Political Agents, viz., the Revakantha, the Mahikantha, the Southern Maratha, Palanpur and the Kattiawar Agencies, the last one being about the most important. In Kattiawar there are various civil and criminal British courts, appeals from which are heard by an officer specially appointed for the purpose, called the Judicial Assistant to the Political Agent, who also exercises original civil as well as criminal jurisdiction in certain important cases. Appeals from the decisions of this officer, both appellate and original, lie to the Governor of Bombay in Council. In the Mahikantha, Revakantha and other Agencies, the British Courts, besides dealing with the cases arising in the territories administered by these Agencies, have what is called the residuary jurisdiction in important cases in the territories administered by the petty chiefs whose jurisdiction both civil and criminal is limited. The appellate jurisdiction over these courts, as well as certain original civil and criminal jurisdiction in their Agencies, is exercised by the Political Agents, and an appeal from the appellate as well as original decisions of the Political Agents lie to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

It must be mentioned that all these cases, some of which are of a very important nature, involving questions of life and death, are between subject and subject, are of a purely judicial nature, and are in no way similar to those arising between the various Native States which, although judicial, have some political questions connected with them. And how is this important appellate civil and criminal jurisdiction exercised by the Bombay Government? Neither of the parties, not even the criminal condemned to death appealing from his sentence, is allowed to be heard by counsel. The appellant has to prepare a written appeal setting forth all the facts and arguments he wants to urge in support of his appeal, and this is sent to the Bombay Government through the Political Agent, in many cases the Court against whose decision the appeal is preferred, and who in sending up the appeal makes a certain report which the parties have no opportunity of seeing. In civil matters a copy of the appellant's written case is supplied to the respondent who submits in writing what is called his rejoinder, but the appellant never gets an opportunity either orally or in writing of replying to the case for the respondent. And the Bombay Government, in practice one of the members of Council who is in charge of the judicial portfolio, decides *in camera* on reading the appellant's case and the report of the Political Agent in criminal cases, and the appellant's and respondent's written arguments and the report of the Political Agent in civil cases. How unsatisfactory this must be, anyone having the least experience of judicial matters can at once say. It is impossible for any counsel, however eminent or clever, to anticipate and answer in his written arguments all the written objections to his case that may be raised not only by the other side, but by the judge; and it must often happen that cases would be wrongly decided on certain supposed objections or misunderstanding that might arise in the mind of the judge and which if stated orally to counsel might be easily met or cleared up. It is not an uncommon experience in Courts, both in England and India, to find judges starting with a strong opposition to a particular case put forward by counsel ultimately coming round by oral discussion and clearing of doubts to the view contended for. That is of course impossible in the *Purdah* system followed by the Bombay Government in the exercise of their judicial functions. It is against all recognised legal notions to administer justice in this way and one only wonders why this absurd system is any longer allowed to continue.

The objection always urged to the judicial councillor sitting as a court and hearing the parties by counsel in these cases is that he is so busy with his ordinary duties that he has no time to do so. I venture to think that if he were to hear the parties he would take much shorter time to dispose of the cases than under the present method, which obliges him to wade unaided through long written arguments and the records of the cases. But assuming that he has no time to spare for hearing the parties that is no excuse for perpetuating the present indefensible system. The only proper course is to transfer the jurisdiction to the High Court, or to appoint a properly qualified judicial officer as special Judicial Commissioner to hear these cases and to make a report to the Governor of Bombay in Council, who should dispose of the cases on such report, as is done by her Majesty on the advice of the Privy Council.

But unsatisfactory as the present system is it is rendered intolerable by the entire exclusion of the judicial element from the Bombay Government. Till lately these appeals were disposed of by the judicial member, who was invariably a judge of the High Court. Since the exclusion of the judicial element on the retirement of Mr. Herbert Birdwood these important judicial functions are exercised by persons who have had no judicial training whatever. A reform therefore in the way of disposing of these cases is more urgently called for than ever. The other effects of there being two revenue members are also far-reaching. The taking away of one high prize from the already unfairly treated judicial branch of the Service, and the absence in the Government of any man intimately knowing the details or the *personnel* of that branch, must have a very depressing and deteriorating effect on the judicial department which

it is well known is not attracting the best men of the Service. This is a serious danger requiring the prompt attention of the authorities.

Under the above circumstances I think it is most important that the subject of reforming the system of the exercise of the judicial powers of the Governor of Bombay in Council in some such way as I have indicated above, and of taking the earliest opportunity of restoring the judicial member to the Bombay Government, should be earnestly pressed on the attention of the Secretary of State for India.

INDIAN CHRONOLOGY.[1]

MRS. RICKMERS has devoted much labour to the subject of her self-sacrificing study—a subject very much of the nature of caviare to the general, yet of great importance for the further progress of investigation and for the assistance of those of us who are not specialists but still wish to do homage to the genius of accuracy. The chronology of India is a very puzzling thing, whether in the sphere of civil or of literary history. The literature of the Hindus, vast and valuable though it be, is singularly deficient in works of a historical character. The Mahometans have done better in this respect, and when they come upon the scene—at a late period no doubt—the chronologist gets away from the meagre records of a copper-plate or an inscription to the more spacious fields of contemporary chronicles that manifest some sense of an order in time even if they may not be strictly trustworthy in every particular date. The diligence of students has reinforced the indigenous records by a strong contingent of support from extraneous sources, Chinese as well as Greek. Mrs. Rickmers has proposed to herself the task of "collecting and tabulating systematically those dates in the civil and literary history of India which have been ascertained by scientific research up to the present time." In the present volume she draws the line at 1530 A.D., at the death of the Emperor Bābar and the succession of Humāyūn. Laborious as her work has been, she has not been consoled and encouraged by the confidence of finality, for where so much depends on conjecture and inference the results are often liable to be modified or entirely upset by future discovery. All the more credit to her then for having laid a temporary foundation at least with such materials as are at present available.

The plan of the work follows the time-honoured example of Fynes Clinton's "Epitome of the Chronologies of Greece and Rome," with necessary modifications. The dates are given as B.C. or A.D., with the Native era subjoined; and every entry is verified by references to the sources whence it is derived, except in well-established and familiar cases. In the earlier times the main dependence is upon the testimony of coins and inscriptions. A notable example of literary enterprise is Sir William Jones's identification of the Sandrokottos or Sandrokoptos of the Greek writers with Chandragupta, the founder of the Maurya dynasty, "whose date, B.C. 315, affords a starting-point from which, with the aid of Singhalese and other Buddhist records, eked out by Pauranic tradition, it is possible to reconstruct with some degree of success an outline of the history of Upper India between the sixth and third centuries B.C." It is some satisfaction to find that the author places reliance on the materials for a definite chronology supplied by the Native chroniclers of Kashmír and Gujarāt. Not only the Greek writers that touch upon Indian history, but also the heathen Chinee can be cited as an important authority. "The Travels of Fa-Hien, Hiuen-Tsang, and I-tsing have supplied many important data for the periods to which they belong, while the minute and careful records of the Chinese have not only given us valuable details as to the history of the barbarous Skythian tribes, whose movements on the northern frontier of India in the first century of our era would otherwise be so obscure, but have further preserved to us the names of numerous Śramanas who visited China in the interests of Buddhism, as well as notices of embassies between China and India, all bearing witness to the close intercourse maintained between the two countries." Let this stand to the credit of the "barbarian" Chinaman, when next we gird at him. Of course, as we come down the centuries we gradually obtain a firmer footing. It is impossible to follow here the various periods with which Mrs. Rickmers deals. One's courage fails. Thus she tells us that "the dates of the Gurjaras of Bharoch, of the Valabhī kings, and the early Chālukya dynasty are known from epigraphical sources, while a few facts of Pallava history have been gleaned by means of synchronisms between early Chālukya and Pallava kings." Who is sufficient for these things? "For the Chandellas, the Kalachuris of Chedi, the Chaulukyas of Anhilvād, and other dynasties of the tenth and following centuries, materials for fixing a definite chronology are abundant." Frankly, we dare not dispute the assertion. We can only regard this mass and maze of historical research with awe-struck amazement. The criticism of it must be relegated to experts. Appended are extensive and valuable tables of scores of dynasties, the compilation of which must have cost much time and labour per line, and there is an ample index.

[1] "The Chronology of India from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century." By C Mabel Dutt (Mrs. W. R. Rickmers). Westminster: Archibald Constable and Co.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

(FROM A PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.)

I have heard it said more than once by lazy and indifferent members of Parliament that the little group of earnest men who watch Indian affairs with untiring zeal only waste their time. It is a recognised truism at Westminster that if one takes a keen interest in any question he will be dubbed a faddist by those who care for nothing but a quiet and easy-going time. As regards the members who hold a brief for India I have always maintained that their influence is not to be measured only by what they do, that is to say by the speeches made and still less by the votes obtained in the lobby. The mere knowledge that there is such a group watching, and ready to drag scandals and iniquities to the light has a good effect. Scandals and iniquities exist, I know, in spite of this vigilance, but who can say how much worse things would be were it not for this vigilance?

I have been led into this train of thought by a question and answer on Monday with regard to an atrocious assault by British soldiers on a helpless and imbecile old Burmese woman at Rangoon. Lord George Hamilton had to own to some drunken ruffians wearing the British uniform. Somehow or other the authorities only managed to arrest one man though they came on the scene when the group was all together. Moreover the man arrested was acquitted on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence on which to found a conviction. This may be a righteous decision so far as the man is concerned, but even the India Office seems to recognise that the matter cannot be left where it is. So Lord George added:

> The Government of India are determined that the matter shall be thoroughly investigated and that the culprits shall be brought to justice. They have impressed their views very strongly upon the civil and military authorities at Rangoon who have undertaken that no effort shall be spared to bring the facts to light. Accordingly a special court of enquiry has been summoned to investigate and report upon the whole matter.

I hope I am doing no one an injustice when I say that had there not been men in this country who were known to be ready to drag this and similar abominations to the light the affair would have been lightly dismissed as a "damned nigger" business deserving of no attention. It may turn out that no one will be punished for the infamy, but at least the authorities have to make an appearance of doing something.

Mr. Schwann on Monday night asked a question which drew attention to another strange Indian matter. He requested the Secretary for India to say when the report of the Assam Tea Plantations would be laid on the Table. I remember that Mr. Schwann asked the same question last Session, and even then it was a long time, four or five years, overdue. Lord George Hamilton promised to draw the attention of the Viceroy to the matter and to point out the desirability of Lord Curzon's expediting the submission of his opinion upon it. I had a chat with Mr. Schwann upon the question, and he said that the excuse used to be that Lord Elgin was so busy with famine, plague, and war (the latter of our own manufacture) that he could not attend to this question, which Lord George says is "a difficult and an intricate one." Mr. Schwann on Monday asked if the delay in publishing this report was caused by the fact that the revelations it contains about the treatment of coolies imported to work on the

Assam Tea Plantations were too awful to be made public, and the Secretary of State denied that this was so. Mr. Schwann told me that he did not state that there were any shocking revelations to be made, but there is good ground for presuming that the authorities have some grave reasons for keeping back a report of this sort year after year, and they ought to be compelled to state what those reasons are.

Lord Kitchener has been in evidence again since I wrote last. I then described how he was on view in the Commons when his money reward was being voted, and how ostentatiously he posed. Last Thursday there was another chance for him to be seen, and he did not miss it. The officers and men who took part in the Sudan campaign were formally thanked by both Houses, and I went into the Lords to hear Lord Salisbury. In a prominent place in front of the Throne stood the Sirdar drinking in with evident relish the eulogies uttered by the Premier. I was glad to notice that that quiet but sturdy Liberal, Lord Kimberley, did not hesitate to condemn the treatment extended to the Mahdi's remains.

All this is however of secondary interest to the people of India compared with the statements made in the English newspapers to the effect that Lord Curzon is anxious that the Sirdar may be appointed to a high post under the Government of India. I can imagine the pathetic anxiety existing in official circles in India as to the real meaning of this. If Lord Kitchener is pushed in that very process means someone being pushed out. That however is a personal matter which has no interest for me. What is of more importance is the fact that Lord Curzon is anxious to get hold of the Sirdar because "his great experience and success in organising extensive operations on an economical scale will enable the Indian Government to keep a better check on the outlay for frontier defences and and expeditions." What does this mean? The phrase "organising extensive operations" does not sound well, especially when coming from so restless and ambitious and young a Viceroy as Lord Curzon, and there are those who see in it a grim hint at further developments in that fatal, costly and criminal forward policy which has been such a curse in the past.

Mr. Chamberlain has been the centre of all sorts of rumour and gossip during the past week. The quidnuncs were all certain on Monday and Tuesday that he had resigned or was just about to resign because he could not get his own way in connexion with Transvaal troubles. The fact that he was away from his place in the House on Monday and did not attend a certain garden party at Hatfield on Saturday were adduced as confirmation strong as Holy Writ. On Tuesday there was a wild rumour to the effect that he was off for a holiday on the continent. Now as to his absence from the House and from Hatfield, there is an explanation so simple and trivial that I will not trouble to write it; while as regards the trip to the continent he is not going at all! I do not think he is likely to resign either in connexion with the Transvaal or anything else. Where is he to go? The Liberals do not want him, a large section of the Tories hate him, and while I do not deny that he has considerable personal influence in the Midlands yet it is absurd to suppose that he could form a party of his own large or strong enough to attract the least attention. Mr. Chamberlain is not the sort of man who would be content to stand aloof from the game of politics, and though he may not think his present position is as lofty as it should be he is shrewd enough to perceive that it is as good as he is ever likely to obtain.

I notice with interest and with pleasure that an Indian gentleman is Senior Wrangler this year; that is to say he is bracketed as equal with an Englishman. The name of the gentleman who has obtained this very high honour is Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, of St. John's College, Cambridge; and I believe he is the first Senior Wrangler who has ever come from our great dependency. There are those who, being unfriendly to our Indian fellow subjects, say that they are good at passing examinations, but at nothing else. It is rather absurd for critics who belong to a country which tests its public servants by their capacity for passing examinations and by nothing else, to take up such an attitude; but intolerance always blinds men. It happens, however, by a singular coincidence that the contents bills of the evening papers on the same day, and in lines close together, announced this distinguished triumph of Mr. R. P. Paranjpye and also a "great innings" by Ranjitsinhji. Now, a country whose sons can carry off so great a scholastic prize as the Senior Wranglership, and can perform brilliant feats in the cricket field should command the respect and the affection of Englishmen of all sorts. "Ranji," as he is called, is one of the most popular men in England to-day, and he holds sound views, too, as regards the Indian National Congress, being true to the land of his birth in spite of all the flattery he has met with here.

CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THURSDAY, June 8.—In the House of Commons Mr. Chamberlain, replying to questions with reference to the Bloemfontein conference, said it was, unfortunately, true that it had broken up without result, and that a new situation had thus been created. President Kruger had rejected the proposals made by Sir A. Milner, and the alternative suggested by President Kruger was considered by her Majesty's Government as entirely inadequate. The discussion, he stated, turned mainly on the question of the franchise, Sir A. Milner being of opinion that the exclusion of the Uitlanders from representation was the root of the difficulties which had arisen.—Mr. Balfour submitted to the House a series of resolutions of thanks to the officers and men engaged in the Sudan expedition. The resolutions were seconded by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and carried.—The Report stage of the London Government Bill was concluded.

Cape Town correspondents sent further particulars regarding the Bloemfontein Conference which was described somewhat hastily as a failure, as President Kruger insisted on arbitration and Sir A. Milner would not yield. After the two different schemes for the enfranchisement of the Uitlanders had been submitted and no agreement found possible, Sir A. Milner urged the gravity of the position and offered to drop the discussion of all questions except that of the franchise. President Kruger said he had gone as far as was possible, and intimated that he should proceed with his own franchise plan. Sir A. Milner replied that he did not object to that, but no arbitration by a foreign Government would be allowed.

Lord Rosebery opened a Church-room which had been erected at Epsom. Remarking in the course of his speech on the danger of short, spontaneous, occasional public utterances, he gave as an illustration the demand that had been made on him by Mr. Balfour and others to explain his reason for wishing to obliterate the last thirteen years and return to the condition of things that prevailed in 1886. He would tell his present hearers, in confidence, that his chief reason was that if it were at all possible he should be 13 years younger. Another curious example of Lord Rosebery's baffling levity.

FRIDAY, June 9.—In the House of Commons the Foreign Office vote came under consideration. Sir C. Dilke, who moved to reduce the vote, criticised the policy of the Government in the Far East with severity. He maintained that the recent arrangement with Russia left matters pretty much where they were before, and blamed the Government for following two more or less irreconcilable policies—namely, the policy of the integrity of China and the policy of spheres of influence. Alluding to the rapid growth of Russian influence at Pekin, he affirmed that it proved the folly of the pretence that the British Government had provided successfully for the difficulties of the future by the occupation of Wei-hai-wei. Referring to the suggestion that we should adopt a policy of alliance with other Powers interested in Chinese trade, he expressed great doubt whether an active alliance was feasible, and stated that we ought rather to depend upon our own strength and foresight. He also recalled the Waima incident, and condemned the Government for their failure to obtain compensation from the French for the relatives of the officers and men who were killed. An important debate followed.

The Indictment Chamber in Paris ordered the provisional release of Colonel Picquart, who was accordingly set at liberty, and proceeded to the house of his cousin, near St. Cloud.

SATURDAY, June 10.—The First Raad at Pretoria passed on Friday a resolution regretting that the High Commissioner had not accepted the President's proposals with regard to the franchise and to arbitration, which it considered reasonable in the highest degree. The President's franchise proposal was confirmed, and the Government was instructed to draft an amendment to the franchise law accordingly.

At to-day's sitting of the Brussels Conference section of Commission No. 2 of the Peace Conference the discussion of the articles defining military authority on an enemy's territory was resumed. Sir John Ardagh, the British delegate, urged that the declaration should be accepted only as a basis for instructions to be given to the troops, without any formal engagement to accept all its articles. The intention of his Government was to incorporate in their manual of instruction all the articles which they found to be in conformity with the principles of international law that had hitherto guided their conduct. Eventually one of the articles was modified and two were suppressed.

SUNDAY, June 11.—President Loubet was present at the races at Longchamp. With some trivial exceptions order was maintained, and the President was well received. Captain Dreyfus embarked on board the cruiser "Sfax" on Friday, and the vessel left for Brest this morning.

MONDAY, June 12.—In the House of Commons the questions to Mr. Chamberlain which appeared upon the notice paper with reference to the Bloemfontein Conference and the franchise question in the Transvaal were deferred in the absence of the right hon. gentleman, and an enquiry addressed to Mr. Balfour with regard to the new situation that had arisen owing to President Kruger's rejection of Sir A. Milner's proposals only elicited from the right hon. gentleman the negative reply that he had no statement to make.

In the Chamber in Paris M. Viviani, Socialist, raised the question of the violence said to have been used by the police in the fight at a *café* and elsewhere after the races at Longchamp on Sunday night. M. Dupuy, the Premier, said that an enquiry as to the alleged brutalities had been ordered, but he generally defended the conduct of the police, and said that no government at all would be possible if respect for order were not enforced. After a number of Socialists and other Deputies had endorsed M. Viviani's complaints the closure was pronounced, and several motions were submitted, one of which by M. Saumande approving the declarations of the Government was accepted by the Premier. Priority was however refused for it by 253 to 246 votes. Eventually priority was voted by 366 to 177 for a motion by M. Ruau to the effect that the Chamber would support only a Government determined energetically to defend Republican institutions and to ensure public order. M. Dupuy declared that he could only accept M. Saumande's motion, but M. Ruau's was carried by 321 to 173 votes. The Ministers withdrew from the Chamber immediately after the result of the division was declared, and the Chamber directly afterwards adjourned until Monday next. The Ministers proceeded to tender their collective resignation to President Loubet, who accepted it, and they only retained office pending the formation of a new Cabinet.

TUESDAY, June 13.—The Mathematical Tripos was issued. Messrs. G. Birtwistle, of Pembroke College, and R. P. Paranjpye, of John's, a native of India, were bracketed equal for the Senior Wranglership.

France.—Baron Fernand de Christiani was charged before the Correctional Tribunal in Paris with assaulting President Loubet at the Auteuil races. He attributed his conduct to excitement, and denied that the demonstration had to his knowledge been premeditated, but evidence contradictory of this statement was adduced, and Baron de Christiani was convicted and sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

Sir A. Milner, in his reply to the deputation who waited on him at Cape Town yesterday to thank him for the attitude he had taken up at Bloemfontein, said that the conference led to no result because the whole discussion turned on the question of the franchise, and on that no agreement was possible. He had given other questions the go-by for the moment and directed all his efforts to secure for the Uitlanders a position within the State, and give them such a share of political power as would enable them to redress their grievances for themselves. But just because he was relying on a single remedy it was absolutely necessary that that remedy should be a radical one. It would have been worse than useless to accept a scheme framed so as to leave an enormous majority of the Uitlanders still outside the State.

WEDNESDAY, June 14.—In the House of Commons the Half-Timers Bill was read a third time.

An important Blue-book relating to the complaints of British subjects in the Transvaal was published. The most interesting document in it was a violent telegram, dated May 4, from Sir Alfred Milner, which, however, was somewhat discounted by his pacific speech of Monday last.

THE NEW MINING RULES.

[FROM AN INDIAN CORRESPONDENT.]

BOMBAY, May 26.

The rules recently promulgated by the Government of India with reference to mining operations and surveys have been the subject of favourable criticism in the Press. There was an outcry against what may be fittingly called the "dog-in-manger" policy of that authority for many years. Private enterprise was so much discouraged and repulsed that it refused to have anything to do with the powers that be. They would neither do anything themselves—anything worth mentioning—for the development of the mineral resources of the country nor allow those willing and capable to do it. The latter, as a class, were proscribed. They were under one pretext or another kept at arm's length. Circumlocution and red tape carried the day. It exulted when it succeeded in putting a spoke in the wheel of private enterprise. This policy of obstruction was achieved by rules, regulations and restrictions unnumbered, specially devised by the departmental authorities. In short, the underlying principle of action of the department entrusted with the development of India's mineral resources was "How not to do it." In its latest article on the subject the *Times of India* vividly portrays the devices of the departmental chiefs. The article is worth reproducing for the special behoof of those who have for years knocked at the door of Government. The valiant Chairman of the Indian Ruby Mines Company could not have a better handle for carrying on his crusade in the matter. But it is of no use now to recall the past and frame indictments against the official obstructionists. If these be the tactics against their own flesh and blood in the matter of material progress, let the unbiassed Englishman imagine for himself the nature and extent of the obstructions as regards the legitimate requirements of the natives of India in respect of improved administration.

The new rules which supersede the old are of a most sweeping character. They brush away the spirit of obstruction. Lord Curzon seems to have brought his own mind to bear on the framing of them. There is a freshness about them which must rejoice those who have at heart the development of India's material resources by private enterprise from any quarter. It is not necessary to enter into details which may be more profitably learned from the *Gazette of India*. Suffice it to say that the rules are every way liberal and elastic—well calculated to achieve the object in view. If these rules may be taken to indicate one of the twelve problems awaiting solution to which Lord Curzon referred in his Budget speech, it must be acknowledged that he deserves high praise. But it is necessary at this stage to give *one* note of warning, namely, that care and circumspection should be used in the choice of exploiters—at any rate that India should not be inundated by foreigners of all colours and degrees as Egypt was some years ago. If the exploitation of the mineral resources of India is eventually intended to benefit Indians, then the people of the country themselves should have preference in mining rights. The way in which two recent light-railway enterprises have been successfully launched in the Bombay Presidency is an earnest that Indian capitalists will come forward to apply for such rights. Native capital may not be abundant. It may be coy. But given the proper impetus, and sympathy, there is no need to fear that capital will not slowly come out and fructify the land. The cotton industry of Bombay is a satisfactory example of this fructification of Indian capital. Indian capital for the benefit of India and the Indians—that is the legitimate cry.

Cognate to this subject of the development of the country is the new projected light railway in the Madras Presidency. It is in the rich zemindari of Parli Kumedi, on the East Coast. It is said that it will be one of the few cheaply constructed lines India can boast of. The cost, including some difficult bridge-work, will be Rs. 21,000 per mile. The cheapest light railway is that of Bahpura, in the Assam Valley, which cost only Rs. 20,000 per mile.

Recently the *Pioneer* has been posing as peacemaker. Two or three of its recent articles ring with lessons on the value of sympathy. It informs all and sundry that the welfare and progress of Indians can be greatly advanced by mutual sympathy. It is evident that the Allahabad journal has taken its cue from the words of sympathy which have more than once fallen from the Viceroy since his advent to this country. This new departure of the *Pioneer* towards Indians is much to be welcomed. And, as the *Champion* said in its last issue, it is to be hoped that the mentor will practice what he preaches. At any rate he should not be oblivious of his own exhortation while asking others to tread the pleasant and agreeable path of sympathy. Consistency is seldom a redeeming trait of Anglo-Indian journalism; but it is to be hoped that at any rate the *Pioneer* will steadfastly maintain its *rôle* of apostle of this new evangel.

The Bengal Conference at Burdwan has followed on the heels of the Conference held the other day at Coimbatore. Babu Mozumdar, a staunch Congressman, and a stirring and eloquent speaker whose sound sense and logic have been the admiration of many a delegate at Congress for years past, was honoured with the Presidency of the Bengal Conference. He did ample justice to it. The chief points of the proceedings were of course the notorious Calcutta Municipal Bill, the ill-starred offspring of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. It was torn to pieces by the speakers. Next the question of primary education was warmly discussed. Here too there is to be discerned a reactionary policy. It is alleged that there is now being forged in the Imperial legislative manufactory something which has for its chief object, not the holding of the torch of knowledge—the three R's of elementary education—before the illiterate mass, but the teaching of the rudiments of agriculture. That agricultural knowledge for the children of the peasantry is a necessity is not denied. But why on earth should the authorities proscribe the three R's?

The *Advocate* of Lucknow very properly urges the authorities to see that the Emigration Acts for coolies outside India are well and faithfully administered. This is a very old subject; but the tactics of garden *muccadams*, or recruiting men, are so many and the tales of hardship and oppression, aye, even of occasional rapine, that the subject needs to be hammered at from time to time with a view to reform. Care is also needed

in the matter of the selection of emigration agents. We always hear official reports of prosperous coolies returning home and of other resident emigrants in Mauritius, in the West Indies and elsewhere, but we seldom hear of the many unlucky persons who could unfold a tale of woe suffered at the hands of their white masters on plantations. In my opinion the divers emigration laws in force in India are nothing but refined marks of slavery. There is so much cant talked always, thanks to the detonating Mr. Kipling, about the "white man's burden" that we never hear of the cry of the black man touching the oppression by the white. Such are our precious emigration laws. What may be the tale Uganda coolies and artisans have to relate? Of course interested officials do not fail to fill columns of roseate reports. We are always showed the bright shield. But what of the reverse?

There was quite a burst of loyal expressions in every part of the country on the Queen's birthday. The Hindus vied with the Mahometans and the Mahometans with the Hindus, along with other races like the Jews, the Parsis and Native Christians, in offering their most sincere prayers for the life of our gracious sovereign and for many more happy, peaceful and prosperous years of her reign, already extended by Providence to sixty-two years. Englishmen have no idea of the deep reverence of Indians for their beloved "Mother-Queen,' as they affectionately term her. Their love and attachment to the Queen is something phenomenal, of which the English race should always be proud.

AN INDIAN SENIOR WRANGLER.

A TRIUMPH FOR FERGUSSON COLLEGE, POONA.

The Cambridge Mathematical Tripos List was issued on Tuesday last, Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, of St. John's College, being bracketed Senior Wrangler.

Raghumath Purushottam Paranjpye, son of Purushottam Keshaw Paranjpye, was born at Murdi, District Ratnagiri, India, in February, 1876. He was educated at Fergusson College, Poona, and the Bombay University. He gained the Government of India Scholarship at Bombay in 1896, and upon entering St. John's College, Cambridge, in October of the same year, soon gained a Foundation Scholarship. Mr. Paranjpye's private tutor was Mr. R. R. Webb.

The British Committee of the Indian National Congress at their meeting on Tuesday morning received from Cambridge a telegram announcing Mr. Paranjpye's success. The following congratulatory telegram was sent to Mr. Paranjpye:—

"The British Committee of the Indian National Congress congratulate you and Fergusson College on your brilliant success. You have advanced India's cause. W. WEDDERBURN (*Chairman*)."

The *Daily Chronicle* wrote (June 14):—

The result of this year's mathematical tripos is a triumph for mind over circumstance. Raghumath P. Paranjpye, a native of Bombay, is bracketed Senior Wrangler with Mr. G. Birtwistle, who began his education in a Wesleyan day school in Burnley, Lancashire. Thus the greatest prize in English education is shared equally by a member of a subject race, alien in language, in thought, and in predisposition, with one of the dominant race, it is true, but one handicapped by his early surroundings. It is not the first time that our public elementary schools have furnished a Senior Wrangler, but it is the first time and far more unexpected that a native of our Indian Empire has qualified for such a distinction. It has long been assumed that the mild Hindu though good at exams. by sheer force of a retentive memory, might never compete with any chance of success in intellectual pursuits involving originality of mind. On the other hand, it is notorious that something more than a first-class memory is required of the Cambridge Senior Wrangler. Perhaps the success of Raghumath P. Paranjpye may serve to dispel the former mistaken idea as effectually as the brilliancy of Ranjitsinhji in the cricket field has caused the British public to revise some other time-honoured notions respecting Indian nerve and skill in manly exercise.

The *Morning Leader* said:—

The brilliant young Indian—Mr. R. P. Paranjpye—who was yesterday bracketed Senior Wrangler, is to be congratulated upon an achievement which is not only remarkable in itself but which should tend in no small degree to encourage a better mind on the part of Englishmen towards educated India. Mr. Paranjpye is not the only Indian who has taken a high place in the class-lists of English Universities. Mr. A. M. Bose, the President of the Indian National Congress, is a high wrangler. Mr. Chatterjee recently came out at the head of the successful candidates for the Indian Civil Service. And Professor Bose, who was in London not many months ago, has made discoveries in physical science which have placed his name in the first rank in the scientific world. But Mr. Paranjpye, we believe, is the first Indian to win the blue ribbon of Cambridge—the coveted Senior Wranglership. What makes his success the more interesting is his association with the Fergusson College, at Poona. Thither, we understand, he will shortly return to live with his colleagues on the small pittance which is all they permit themselves in their self-sacrificing endeavour to fill a part of the gap in the scandalously neglected system of higher education in India. As if to emphasise the fact that the achievements of young India are not limited to the schools, the contents-bills of last evening's newspapers announced "Great Innings by Ranjitsinhji." He had, in point of fact, scored a cool 178 for Sussex against Notts. With the Goorkhas to show us the way up the heights of Dargai, a Ranjitsinhji to save us from defeat at the hands of Australia, and a Paranjpye to tie with a Burnley boy for the Senior Wranglership, Englishmen may with good reason pause to consider whether the policy of making Indians Outlanders in their own country is altogether worthy.

The *Manchester Guardian* wrote:—

The list of Wranglers is unusually interesting this year. Mr. Birtwistle, whose name is first on the list, went to Cambridge from Owens College, to Owens College from Burnley Grammar School, and to Burnley Grammar School from a public elementary school, thus establishing a triple title to the interest and the congratulations of the Lancashire people. The late Dr. Hopkinson, so far as we know, was the first Owens College man to be Senior Wrangler, and Mr. Birtwistle is the second, but of course not the last. The Manchester Grammar School, which has rather a terrible reputation in mathematics, has been unlucky in just missing the supreme distinction three times in five years, in 1892, 1893, and 1895; but Mr. Birtwistle has now removed Manchester's last grievance at Cambridge. Bracketed with Mr. Birtwistle as Senior Wrangler is Mr. Paranjpye, an Indian from Poona and Bombay, and immediately after him come two Australians. Mr. Paranjpye is the first Indian who has ever been Senior Wrangler, and we should very much doubt whether two Australians have ever been so high in the same list as Mr. Maclaren and Mr. Bevan. Their success is sure to be popular. If we in Manchester may boast that we have saved the mother country from intellectual defeat, Cambridge will be no less gratified at this proof that she is now beginning to have the training of some of the best brains, not of England alone, but of India and the Colonies as well.

The *Westminster Gazette* said:—

The Mathematical Tripos list this year is exceptionally interesting, since it affords one more piece of evidence that the examiners are colour-blind. One of the two bracketed Senior Wranglers is an Indian. Then the third and fourth Wranglers were both educated at Melbourne, the former being an Australian born and bred, though the latter was born in London. The English Senior Wrangler, too, began his education in an elementary day-school, and has climbed to his present honourable position up an educational ladder of prizes, exhibitions and scholarships. Altogether, the list may be said to fit in with the Imperial character of the time. If Mr. Kipling were only quite well we feel sure that we could count upon him for a poem on the subject. What a splendid time he would have with the intricacies of Mathematics, or would he sigh for his Jungle?

The *Pall Mall Gazette* wrote:—

Yesterday might, not improperly, be described as Empire Day in the University of Cambridge. Of the bracketed Senior Wranglers one was a native of India, while the fourth and fifth on the list were Australians. That the fame of Raghumath Purushottam Paranjpye will ever become as widely popular as that of Kuma Shri Ranjitsinhji is a proposition which may plausibly be questioned, but there is now no denying that Cambridge may claim to be considered the nursing mother of exotic reputations acquired in both the physical and intellectual arenas of university training. But, really, the Old Country will have to look to her laurels. What between the Ranjis and Paranjis and all the various Cornstalks, we shall be nowhere if we do not hurry up and bestir ourselves—under the mid-day sun and the mid-night oil as well.

LORD KITCHENER.

"A HIGH POST UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA."

The *Standard* of Monday last (June 12) gave prominence to the following announcement:—

There is a probability of Lord Kitchener being appointed to a high post under the Government of India. Lord Curzon, we understand, has been most anxious to obtain Lord Kitchener's services, more particularly on account of the urgent necessity of effecting reductions in military expenditure, in regard to which it is hoped that Lord Kitchener's great experience and success in organising extensive operations on an economical scale will enable the Indian Government to keep a better check on the outlay for frontier defences and expeditions.

A Reuter telegram, dated Simla, June 13, said:—

Nothing is known here to confirm the statement that there is a probability of Lord Kitchener being appointed to a high post in India.

The *St. James's Gazette* (June 12) said:—

The *Standard* has a curious announcement, which is made in an apparently authoritative manner, that there is a probability of Lord Kitchener being appointed to a high post under the Government of India, for the purpose of checking expenditure on the frontier. The question at once arises what post Lord Kitchener could possibly hold in that country? He is considerably junior in standing to the present Commander-in-Chief, Sir William Lockhart, but he has so outshone him in reputation that it is difficult to conceive how the relations between the two men could be satisfactorily adjusted. In fact, it is now hard to imagine Lord Kitchener playing second fiddle to any man. The military member of Council in India is practically independent of the Commander-in-Chief, and that post might meet the difficulties of the situation; but the special point desired by Lord Curzon, we are told, is "organising extensive operations on an economical scale." Those are the duties of the Adjutant-General or Quartermaster-General, both of whom are immediately under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief. Altogether the *Standard's* announcement presents a pretty little problem to solve.

The *Morning Leader* (June 13) wrote:—

It is stated with a rather curious appearance of authority that Lord Kitchener may be appointed to "a high post under the Government of India." The exact post is not specified, and it is not surprising that those who hold a watching brief for Anglo-Indian officials should ask in some dismay whom Lord Kitchener is to elbow out. The post, it would appear, is to be a military one. Lord Curzon—so the story runs—is anxious to get hold of Lord Kitchener because his "great experience and success in organising extensive operations on an economical scale will enable the Indian Government to keep a better check on the outlay for frontier defences and expeditions." The need and the opportunity for economy in the military department of the Government of India are not to be denied. But what determines economy is policy (*e.g.*, the occupation of Chitral), and that phrase about "organising extensive operations" sounds ominous. We thought that a policy of peace had been at length inaugurated. But this phrase takes us straight back to Mr. (now Lord) Curzon's statement that British soldiers must one day face Russian soldiers across the Oxus. Can it be that Lord Kitchener is wanted to organise the Third Afghan War, for which each tentative development of the "forward" policy is so much preparation?

Imperial Parliament.

Thursday, June 8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LEGAL EDUCATION IN BOMBAY.

With reference to the second of Sir William Wedderburn's two questions reported under this heading in our issue of last week, the following supplementary question was asked:—

Sir W. Wedderburn: Will the noble lord ascertain from the Bombay Government which of the contradictory reasons they rely upon for preventing the establishment of this private college?

Lord George Hamilton: No, sir, I can add nothing to my answer.

THE CASE OF MISS SORABJI.

Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention had been drawn to the unsuccessful application of Miss Sorabji for permission to plead before the Allahabad High Court:

Whether he was aware that the lady referred to had taken law honours at Oxford and had passed the LL.B. Examination of the Bombay University, and had complied with all the necessary regulations:

And, whether he would state the grounds upon which she was prevented from practising before the High Courts of India.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am aware that Miss Sorabji applied to the High Court for permission to practise as a pleader, and that the Court, which has an absolute discretion in the matter under letters patent, refused its assent to her application. I do not know what honours Miss Sorabji may have taken at Oxford or elsewhere, nor do I know the grounds of the Court's refusal; but I think it probable that it was on account of her sex, which would equally have debarred her from practising in any court of law in this country.

THE GODAVERI ESTATES.

Sir Andrew Scoble asked the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention had been called to certain prospectuses of the Godaveri Estates, Limited, and the Godaveri Valley Collieries, Limited, purporting to deal with mining and other rights in the Zemindari of Ramangavaram and Mullur, in the Hyderabad State:

And, whether the Zemindar had power to give a lease of the mineral rights on his estate.

Lord G. Hamilton: My attention has been called to these prospectuses, which appear to have been issued in London for the purpose of exploiting a concession alleged to have been granted by one Mathu Krishnam, Zemindar of Ramangavaram and Mullur in the Warangal District of Hyderabad State.

The Government of His Highness the Nizam brought the matter to the notice of the Government of India and reported that they had nothing to do with this alleged concession; and that, inasmuch as no zemindar has the right to lease minerals to an English company without their consent and that of the Government of India, any contract purporting to deal with mining rights which may have been made by the Zemindar is null and void.

IMPORTS OF SUGAR.

Captain Sinclair asked the Secretary of State for India, if he would be good enough to state the quantities of sugar, raw and refined, entering India during the year 1898-9 specifying in each case the countries of origin.

Lord G. Hamilton: The trade returns for March, 1899, give the following figures as the imports of sugar into India during the year 1898-99:—Refined sugar.—From Austria-Hungary, 1,063,737 cwt.; Germany, 413,971 cwt.; Mauritius, 1,793,607 cwt; China, 185,682 cwt.; Java, 162,500 cwt.; Straits Settlements, 75,656 cwt.; other countries, 69,757 cwt. Total, 3,764,910 cwt. Unrefined sugar.—From all countries, 312,778 cwt. I have as yet received no details regarding the countries from which this unrefined sugar came. It may be added that 167,644 cwt. of foreign refined sugar were re-exported from India during the year.

THE ANGLO-INDIAN BULLET.

On the motion of Lord George Hamilton a Return was granted for Copy of Reports on the effect of Military Bullet now in use in India.

THE SUGAR DUTY ACT.
DEBATE ON THURSDAY NEXT.

Mr. Balfour, in making a Statement in the course of public business, said: I propose to allocate Thursday next to the vote of censure, or the motion to be proposed by hon. gentlemen opposite, on the subject of the sugar bounties.

THE COLONIAL LOANS BILL.
WHY IS INDIA EXCLUDED?

In the discussion in Committee on the Colonial Loans Bill,

Mr. Dillon said: If the right hon. gentleman (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) desired to obtain good security outside the United Kingdom for the investment of Savings Bank Money, why was India excluded? India stock would give greater relief than all the Crown colonies combined many times over. It was clear that to be of any effect the system must have large operation, and the Bill contained the germ of a great financial policy, and no one could see the extent to which it might be carried.

Sir John Leng said that whoever had paid any attention to the present state of our finances, especially to the large sums of money in savings bank deposits, and to the increasing difficulty to find a safe and reasonable outlet for that money, must have seen that the time had arrived when it was desirable that the Government should find new channels for investment. His only regret was that the Bill did not include India within its scope, but he urged that the experiment with the Crown colonies should be tried, and if it were successful it would encourage the Government to go further. (Cheers.)

Friday, June 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.

Sir H. Vincent asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs if the Belgian Government was taking any steps to obtain the consent of France and Russia to the abolition of the bounties upon the export of sugar, as desired by the other nations represented at the conference last year at Brussels; and if there was any hope of a successful issue to such efforts in the absence of penal legislation in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Brodrick: The results of the negotiations in this direction which were confided to the Belgian Government by the Sugar Bounty Conference of Brussels have not yet been made known to her Majesty's Government.

Sir H. Vincent asked whether the Government would make enquiries before the debate on Thursday next.

No answer was returned.

PRESBYTERIAN SOLDIERS IN INDIA.

Mr. Hedderwick asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been drawn to a complaint that the Episcopalian chaplains attached to the Army in India objected to Presbyterian services being conducted in the churches provided by Government for her Majesty's troops, and that in consequence Scottish Presbyterian soldiers were compelled to worship in riding schools, theatres, and other even more unsuitable places:

Whether there was any foundation in fact for this complaint; and, if so, upon what grounds the exclusion of Presbyterian soldiers from the use of churches provided by Government for the purpose of worship was defended:

And, whether he had taken, or meant to take, any steps to remove the grievance complained of.

Lord G. Hamilton: For some time past I have been in communication with the officials of the Scotch Church with a view of facilitating the use of existing buildings for divine service by Presbyterians in India. In consequence of representations which reached the Government of India, certain changes were made about a year ago in the rules which govern the use of Government churches. The tendency of those changes was to facilitate the use of such churches by denominations other than the Church of England. Since then as I stated in this House on May 9, the only changes made in these rules have been (1) to define more accurately the religious bodies who may hold services in these churches, Presbyterians being expressly included; and (2) to make the final appeal, in case of difficulty, lie to the Metropolitan: whereas up to last summer the final decision lay with the Bishop of the diocese. No cases of difficulty or hardship under the new rules have as yet been reported to me, nor am I at present aware of any reason for taking action in the matter.

Monday, June 12.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LIQUOR SHOPS IN BELLARY.

Mr. Samuel Smith asked the Secretary of State for India, whether

he was aware that three liquor shops had been opened and still remained open in Brace Petta, one of the leading thoroughfares of the town of Bellary, in the Madras Presidency; and that these three shops were very near each other, and situated in close proximity to Christian and Hindu places of worship, and on the only common road leading to the Cowl bazaar and the municipal high school in the fort:

Whether a petition had been submitted to the Collector of Bellary by some of the leading residents in the immediate neighbourhood of the shops complaining of the nuisance caused by them, and praying for their removal:

And, whether, having regard to the declared policy of the Government of India, as enunciated in their Despatch, No. 29, of February 4, 1890, he would give instructions for the closing of the said shops.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have received no information on the subject of the first two clauses of the honourable member's question.

I do not propose to send any instructions to India on the matter, which is clearly one for the discretion of the authorities in India.

THE RANGOON OUTRAGE
SPECIAL ENQUIRY ORDERED.

Mr. Davitt asked the Secretary of State for India, whether certain British soldiers had been charged with an indecent assault upon a Native woman at Rangoon:

Whether such soldiers had been brought before any tribunal for this alleged crime:

And, if any punishment had been inflicted for this outrage.

Lord G. Hamilton: This matter has for some time past been occupying the attention of the Indian Government, with whom I have been in communication on the subject.

I regret to say that it is true that an outrage was committed upon an elderly Burmese woman of unsound mind by a party of soldiers, who are said to have been under the influence of liquor. On appearance of police and a corporal the soldiers dispersed, but one of them was arrested and tried by jury on May 10, but was acquitted on the ground that he was not proved to have committed or attempted the offence with which he was charged; and the Recorder concurred in the verdict. So far no other person has been brought to trial; but the Government of India are determined that the matter shall be thoroughly investigated and that the culprits shall be brought to justice; and they have impressed their views very strongly upon the civil and military authorities at Rangoon who have undertaken that no effort shall be spared to bring the facts to light. Accordingly, a special court of enquiry has been summoned to investigate and report upon the whole matter.

THE ASSAM TEA PLANTATION.
REPORT STILL WITHHELD.

Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India, when he would lay upon the Table of the House the Report on the Assam Tea Plantations, now for several years delayed in its presentation to Parliament.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have not yet received the views of the Government of India on the subject of the Report, to which the hon. member's question refers, although in February last they hoped to be able to lay them before me at an early date. The matter with which the Report is concerned is a difficult and intricate one; but I will draw the Viceroy's attention to the desirability of expediting the submission of their opinions upon it.

Tuesday, June 13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SUGAR CULTIVATION IN MAURITIUS.

Mr. William Holland asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he could state whether there had been any diminution in the acreage under sugar in the Mauritius during the last five years; and, if so, to what extent.

Mr. Chamberlain: It appears from the Blue-book for the years 1893-97 (the last Blue-book we have) that the estimated acreage of cultivated lands on sugar estates in Mauritius was, in 1893, 71,000 arpents approximately; 1894, 114,000 arpents approximately; 1895, 93,000 arpents approximately; 1896, 52,000 arpents approximately; 1897, 79,421 arpents approximately. An arpent is about one-twentieth of an acre. These figures show that there was a great increase in the estimated acreage of cultivated land between the years 1893 and 1894, a rapid decline between the years 1894 and 1896, and a partial recovery in the year 1897, which is the last year for which the figures are available.

Thursday, June 15.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FRANCHISE IN FRENCH POSSESSIONS.

Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India, what were the conditions under which the franchise was exercised by the inhabitants of the French possessions in India, and how did these conditions compare with those affecting the inhabitants of British India.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have no information as to the conditions under which the franchise is exercised by the inhabitants of the French possessions in India, the size and nature of which are such that any comparison of the kind suggested in the question would be altogether misleading.

APPEALS DISPOSED OF BY THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he would grant a Return for the last three years showing the number and nature of the civil and criminal appeals from the decisions of Political Officers in Native States disposed of by the Bombay Government; whether he would state what was the procedure followed in the trial of these appeals; whether the parties had an opportunity of being heard in person or by counsel:

And, whether any Member of the Bombay Government was a trained judicial officer qualified to dispose of capital and other cases as a final Court of Appeal.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Return for which the hon. member asks cannot be supplied from information in this country, but I will communicate with the Government of Bombay on the subject.

In the cases to which he refers, whether civil or criminal, the parties are heard either in person or by counsel in the Political Courts of first instance and again in the Political Courts of Appeal. In cases where the decisions of these courts are further reviewed by the Government of Bombay the appeals and rejoinders may be, and generally are, prepared by counsel and submitted in writing; and if it is found necessary that any issue should be argued by the parties in person or by counsel the case is remanded to the local Court of Appeal for the purpose; but parties and counsel do not appear before the Governor in Council.

The Government of Bombay includes one member who has held high office, political and judicial, in Kathiawar; but it considers these matters as a Government, with the assistance of its legal adviser and its Judicial Department, and does not depend exclusively upon such legal and judicial training as may be possessed by any of its members.

THE RIOTING IN TINNEVELLI.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had received any official particulars regarding the riots which took place in the Tinnevelli district of Madras last Saturday; and, if so, would he state the same to the House:

Whether he had received any confirmation of the statement that 100 murders had been committed and whole villages sacked:

And, what steps were taken to quell the disturbances.

Lord G. Hamilton: In reply to my hon. friend's question I will read the telegram which I have to-day received from the Governor of Madras.

"Tinnevelli riots due to dispute between Shanars on the one hand and Maravars on the other regarding religious privileges of Shanars. Serious riot, June 6, at Sivakasi. Ten Shanars and ten Maravars killed, numerous houses burnt. Disturbance spread to Madura District to some extent, and serious riot reported from Shencottah in Travancore. Seventy persons wounded. Six companies of Native troops called out. European magistracy and police strengthened. Active steps being taken to quell disturbances and punish rioters."

I may add that the Shanars and Maravars are castes of low social position, whose occupation and manner of life are such as might readily lead to rioting and fighting. A similar encounter took place between the same two castes about four years ago.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India, whether a despatch had been sent to India approving special terms of retirement for certain Service Officers of the Indian Public Works Department from Cooper's Hill:

And, whether, for the convenience of those concerned, the terms might now be published.

Lord G. Hamilton: A despatch on the subject of the terms of retirement to be offered to certain officers of the Indian Public Works Department who were recruited from Cooper's Hill College in the years 1874, 1875 and 1876, has been addressed to the Government of India, but has not yet reached them. As soon as they have received it I understand that they will take steps to make its contents known to the local Governments for such action as they may consider desirable.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

Notice has been given of the following questions:—

Mr. Herbert Roberts: To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention has been drawn to the shooting case in which four privates of the Connaught Rangers came into collision with some Natives near Meerut in December last, and which has aroused considerable interest in India:

And, whether in view of the frequent occurrence of such conflicts in India due to the practice of British soldiers carrying firearms whilst off duty, he will consider whether more stringent regulations are required in the interests of the public peace. [*Friday, June* 16.]

Mr. Herbert Roberts: To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention has been called to the disgraceful outrage upon a Burmese lady, described in a telegram in the *Times* on the 5th instant, which was committed by from twelve to sixteen men of the West Kent Regiment at Rangoon on April 2 last:

Whether it is a fact that the civil authorities are powerless to discover the culprits because the soldiers refuse to give evidence:

Whether he is aware that some forty men were either witnesses of or participants in the outrage, and that the regimental authorities have so far made no arrests:

And, whether he will cause an immediate enquiry to be made into the matter. [*Friday, June* 16.]

Mr. Herbert Roberts: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state whether the Select Committee of the Bengal Legislative Council have submitted their Report upon the Calcutta Municipal Bill; and, if so, whether any alteration has been made in section 8 of the Bill, which reduces the representatives of the elected Commissioners of the town to a minority of four in the proposed Executive Committee of twelve:

And whether he will state what course he intends to adopt with respect to the measure. [*Friday, June* 16.]

Sir Charles Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he could lay upon the Table of the House any official reports on the results of inoculation in India against cholera, typhoid, and the plague. [*Tuesday, June* 20.]

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